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Minister on tour

In the coming months, Pearl Calahasen (Minister Responsible for Children's Services) will be visiting all the Child & Family Services Authorities. So far, she has met with Regions 1, 2, 3, 10, 15, 16 and 18. The Minister is connecting with a wide range of groups so that everyone is tapped in to what's happening in government and with services for children and families.

Who Does What?

There are two Ministers involved in the creation of the new community-based system of delivering child and family services:



Dr. Lyle Oberg

Minister of Family & Social Services



Pearl Calahasen

Minister Without Portfolio
Responsible for Children's Services

- Is responsible for the services themselves
- Each Authority is accountable to him for the effective delivery of services.
- Appoints and supports the Authority boards
- Co-ordinates the interdepartmental initiatives for children within the Alberta Children's Initiative.

The Alberta Children's Initiative: *An Agenda for Joint Action*

We've entered a new era in Alberta. Gone are the days when government plans, directs, and delivers all services. Communities have been (and are being) empowered and supported to deliver services locally in a way that meets their community needs and realities.

The Alberta Government is therefore changing the way it operates to better support communities in their new roles. A new plan for collaboration has been put together by government and community members.

Called "The Alberta Children's Initiative: An Agenda for Joint Action," the plan commits the Ministries of Health, Education, Family and Social Services, Justice, and Community Development to work together and with community authorities to achieve common goals for children.

Shows Albertans how government will function under the new community-based system.

The initiative contains a business plan which lays out a vision, goals, strategies, and expected outcomes. It also has a number of actions, including:

continued work on addressing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Children Involved in Prostitution
an annual meeting of leaders involved in services for children

a common system for reporting on progress in achieving the goals of the plan

an initiative to address the mental health needs of children

an initiative to provide more integrated services in schools for children with special health needs

Information is available on the internet (www.gov.ab.ca/cfss) or by calling the Child and Family Services Secretariat at 310-0085 (for toll-free access from outside Edmonton, first dial 310-0000).



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The Child & Family Services Secretariat

Under the leadership of David Steeves, CEO and Deputy Clerk of Executive Council, the Secretariat was put in place in the Spring of 1998 to support Minister Calahasen and to do two things:

1. Support the Child and Family Services Authorities in their governing role.
2. Facilitate inter-departmental initiatives for children and families as outlined in the Alberta Children's Initiative.

You can get more information about the Secretariat by calling 415-0085 (from outside Edmonton, you can be connected toll-free by first dialing 310-0000 and then the number).

The Transition Team

Chaired by Paula Tyler, Assistant Deputy Minister, the team is working hard along with regional transition teams over the coming months to make sure that services are transferred to the Child and Family Services Authorities in a stable and orderly fashion. For more information, call **427-6428** (from outside Edmonton, you can be connected toll-free by first dialing 310-0000 and then the number).

Interprovincial Action on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Takes Flight

In October, Dr. Lyle Oberg (Minister of Family and Social Services)



announced new projects with the Prairie provinces for raising awareness and preventing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

(FAS) - one of the actions under the Alberta Children's Initiative.

Dr. Oberg also announced in November that more access to FAS support and resource will be available through 18 new community projects - one located in each Child and Family Services Authority region.

Also, over 700 social services and education providers have already been trained on how to recognize, support and care for people with FAS.

For more information, contact Lee Ann at 422-5640.

Recruiting CEO's

The following Authorities have announced their Chief Executive Officers:

Region 1: Beryl Mason

Region 7: Paul Bujold

Region 2: Bryan Heninger

Region 8: David Regehr

Region 3: Jim Husband

Region 10: Steven Brown

Region 4: Bill Meade

Region 11: Harry Oswin

Region 12: Dr. Glen Sinclair

Reporting to the board, the CEOs will be responsible for carrying out their Authority's service and business plans.

For More Information:

Information on the new community-based system is available:

- on the Family and Social Services webpage (www.gov.ab.ca/fss)
- and on the Secretariat webpage (www.gov.ab.ca/cfss)

Feel free to photocopy and distribute this newsletter. Additional copies are available by calling 427-4801. It is also available on the Secretariat webpage at: www.gov.ab.ca/cfss